

## POLICE

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The tarnished image everyone received because of the confrontations was another reason for the decline in confrontation-producing parties last year, Cline suggested. "It was bad for the community, bad for students, bad for police, bad for the University."

Cline said he expected the level of incidents for this school year to remain within the level of the past year. However, he cautioned that the previous riots sparked spontaneously.

Former ASUO President Kirk Bailey also doubted the recent clashes could have meant a return to the early '70s, citing the Persian Gulf War as a situation that could have created a climate for confrontations.

However, the Gulf War and other issues on people's minds, such as the effects of Ballot Measure 5, provide a possible explanation for the absence of clashes last year, Bailey said.

During the spring 1991 term, events could have led to a repeat of the previous year's, but the level of confrontational energy had tapered off, an effect Bailey credited in part to the efforts of the task force.

Through the meetings and forums, police and students learned a great deal about the expectations and imperatives of the other group, Bailey said. "The police did a good job of changing their policies and procedures, he said. In addition, students got the message that "when push comes to shove," police have power they are prepared to use, he said.

During the year, response team members contacted the hosts of large parties to warn them about complaints.

The warnings were generally respected, Bailey said.

And when police responded to parties last year, they usually responded earlier, without riot gear, he said.

In response to criticism from

task force meetings, the police have become more sensitive about using force against students, something evident in the instructions officers receive for dealing with student parties. University greek adviser Mark Latimer said.

In many cases during the 1990-91 year, the response teams weren't needed, as police responded to complaints earlier in the evening, before hundreds of drinking students showed up, Latimer said.

Moreover, the task force sent out fliers and ran some advertisements to encourage responsible party behavior, he said.

"Students are always going to party, and warm weather brings them outside," Latimer said. Even so, the task force worked to make sure University and community relations didn't deteriorate to the strained quality of the 1970s.

A different atmosphere exists in Eugene today than did in the 1970s, Latimer said. "It doesn't seem to be the same era of confrontation as several years ago."

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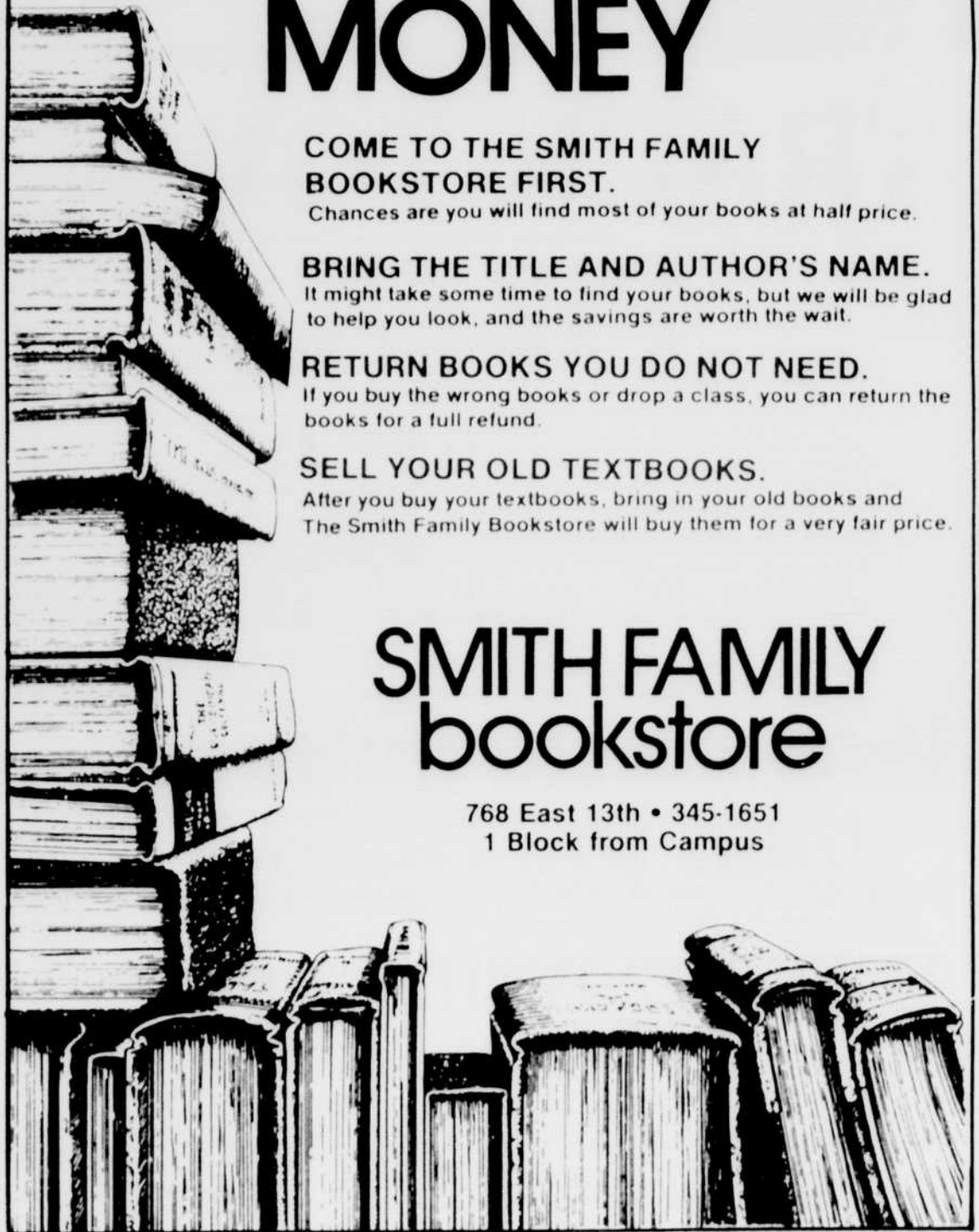
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